



US Army Training and Doctrine Command

TRADOC Public Affairs:
950 Jefferson Avenue
Fort Eustis, VA 23604
Telephone: (757) 501-xxxx, 5886, 5866
e-mail: monr-tradocpac@conus.army.mil

If you know anyone who should receive TRADOC Daily News, send email contact information to Gregory.c.mueller.civ@mail.mil, TRADOC Public Affairs.

[Army Electronic Warfare Evolutionary Path Presented at EW Summit](#) (*Targeted News Service*) Army EW has a broad base of players. "Fort Sill has created a range which has the ability to train Soldiers how to operate within the electromagnetic spectrum and in a realistic battle scenario," said Ekvall. Communications systems for electronic warfare are supported at both the Intelligence Center of Excellence at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., as well as the Signal Center of Excellence in Fort Gordon, Ga.

[Army Wants SF Training for Scouts](#) (*Military.com*, By Matthew Cox) Major Gen. H.R. McMaster, the commander of the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence, said that ground combat units in the future will need to be more adept at understanding the cultures of their battle space. Scout units will need some skill sets "previously associated with Special Forces, and those are in the areas of foreign internal defense and combat advisory skills," McMasters said.

[Aviation Center of Excellence Soldiers Compete For Top Honors](#) (*Army Flier*, By Nathan Pfau) This year's competition was different from previous years in that it was much more extensive, according to Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Thomson Jr. "Years previous, it was a much more scaled-down event," he said. "Just some hands-on testing and a board in front of senior NCOs (noncommissioned officers), so we really expanded the aperture and invited more participants to come in."

[3 Marines Dead, Including Suspect, In Quantico Shooting](#) (*CBS News*) Officials say a Marine killed a male and female colleague before committing suicide. A base spokesman says it began around 11 p.m. with a shooting that killed one at Marine Base Quantico. The suspect then barricaded himself inside the barracks, prompting a standoff with authorities. Authorities eventually entered the barracks early Friday and found a second victim dead along with the suspect dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

[Congress Approves Temporary Spending Bill to Keep the Government Open](#) (*Washington Post*, By Rosalind S. Helderman and Lisa Rein) Congress approved a short-term funding bill Thursday that ends the possibility of a federal government shutdown next week. The stop-gap spending resolution, approved on a broad bipartisan vote in the House, locks in the \$85 billion across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year.

[Pentagon Delaying Furlough Notices by Two Weeks](#) (*USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook) The Pentagon has delayed sending furlough notices to its civilian employees for two weeks while it studies legislation that would give it more flexibility in spending its budget this year, according to a memo released Thursday. One likely effect of the delayed notification to its 800,000 employees is that they will be furloughed fewer than the 22 days originally anticipated.



Targeted News Service

Army Electronic Warfare Evolutionary Path Presented at EW Summit

Read full story at: <http://www.militaryaerospace.com/news/2013/03/21/army-electronic-warfare-evolutionary-path-presented-at-ew-summit.html>

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[<HOME>](#)



Military.com

Army Wants SF Training for Scouts

By Matthew Cox

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[<HOME>](#)



Army Flier

Aviation Center of Excellence Soldiers Compete For Top Honors

By Nathan Pfau

FORT RUCKER, Ala. -- Nineteen Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from across the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence had the opportunity to compete against one another through events that tested their physical prowess as well as their mental agility.

The 2013 USAACE Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer and Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition, held March 11-1, pushed Soldiers to their limits, but only three came out on top: Pfc. David B. Coppersmith, B Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment, 110th Aviation Brigade, won Soldier of the Year; Staff Sgt. Lonnie T. Gilstrap, A Co. 1st Bn. 13th Avn. Regt., 1st Avn. Bde., won Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; and Staff Sgt. Alexis Bastidas, B Co., 1st Bn., 222nd Avn. Regt., 128th Avn. Bde., won AIT Platoon Sergeant of the Year.

"It's an honor to just be part of this competition, but to win and represent my unit is the greater honor," said Bastidas. "It feels great to be able to represent my unit. Not only them, but everybody that helped us train to get where we are both physically and mentally."

This year's competition was different from previous years in that it was much more extensive, according to Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Thomson Jr., Aviation Branch command sergeant major.

"Years previous, it was a much more scaled-down event," he said. "Just some hands-on testing and a board in front of senior NCOs (noncommissioned officers), so we really expanded the aperture and invited more participants to come in."

The Soldiers had to endure several events throughout the competition: a 6-mile foot march, during which each Soldier was issued a 30-pound ruck sack and dummy rifle; land navigation exercise, during which each Soldier was tasked with finding specific points on a map; shooting range events, during which Soldiers were only allotted a certain number of rounds to hit targets with; a mystery event that encompassed physical skills mixed with mental proficiencies; and Soldier, NCO and AIT PSG boards, which required Soldiers to answer questions regarding their training and Army Aviation.

The early-morning 6-mile road march kicked off the competition, with each competitor having to complete it within 90 minutes to continue through the competition, and the fastest time received extra points, according to Thomson.

"Doing that six-mile ruck march with 30 pounds on your back and running is tough," said Coppersmith.

Gilstrap agreed, adding that the road march, coupled with the land navigation, was the hardest part of the competition.

"I think in total I went about 11 and a half miles, and that was pretty challenging," he said.

The winners were announced during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum March 13.



"Every one of these Soldiers and noncommissioned officers really gave it their all," said Thomson. "I can tell you that they left their hearts and souls out on that field yesterday."

All the Soldiers throughout the competition knew of each event they had to compete in except for one -- the mystery event.

The mystery event was held at Lake Tholocco and required participants to complete three challenges. First they had to jump into a canoe, and row their canoe against wind and currents to an island where they had the opportunity to retrieve an arrow. They were able to go back to the island as many times as they could within 15 minutes to retrieve up to five arrows.

After they retrieved their arrows, they were required to report to the next station where they were tasked with completing a puzzle. Based on whether they completed the puzzle or not determined how many points their arrow would be worth, said Thomson.

After the puzzle, Soldiers had to shoot their arrows into a target to make their points count toward their final score.

The winners were determined by combining points from all events, and Thomson said during the ceremony that the Soldier of the Year was determined within three to four points, and the NCO of the year was determined with a difference of one point.

Each winner said that they would do it all over again if they had the opportunity, no matter the outcome, and some shared advice that they would give to future Soldiers who wish to compete.

"You have to train every single day," said Bastidas. "We've been training since Day 1 -- since when we joined the Army -- but for something like this, you have to train seven days a week."

[<HOME>](#)



CBS News

3 Marines Dead, Including Suspect, In Quantico Shooting

Read full story at: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57575738/3-marines-dead-including-suspect-in-quantico-shooting/

Officials say a Marine killed a male and female colleague before committing suicide. Base spokesman Lt. Agustin Solivan says it began around 11 p.m. with a shooting that killed one at Marine Base Quantico. The suspect then barricaded himself inside the barracks, prompting a standoff with authorities. Authorities eventually entered the barracks early Friday and found a second victim dead along with the suspect dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

[<HOME>](#)



Washington Post

Congress Approves Temporary Spending Bill to Keep the Government Open

By Rosalind S. Helderman and Lisa Rein

Read full story at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/house-approves-resolution-to-keep-the-government-running-bill-heads-to-white-house/2013/03/21/b06e0e92-922e-11e2-9cfd-36d6c9b5d7ad_story.html

Congress approved a short-term funding bill Thursday that ends the possibility of a federal government shutdown next week. But a broader budget battle about taxes and spending for the year is just beginning. The stop-gap spending resolution, approved on a broad bipartisan vote in the House, locks in the \$85 billion across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year.

[<HOME>](#)



USA Today

Pentagon Delaying Furlough Notices by Two Weeks

By Tom Vanden Brook

Read full story at: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/03/21/military-furloughs-delayed-because-of-continuing-resolution/2006321/>

The Pentagon has delayed sending furlough notices to its civilian employees for two weeks while it studies legislation that would give it more flexibility in spending its budget this year, according to a memo released Thursday. One likely effect of the delayed notification to its 800,000 employees is that they will be furloughed fewer than the 22 days originally anticipated.

[<HOME>](#)